

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5250

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AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 6310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR, CY

SUBJECT: PRESS REVIEW - AUGUST 29

1. SUMMARY. ATHENS NEWSPAPERS DEVOTED FRONTPAGE REPORTAGE TO DOMESTIC ISSUES OF INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGES AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FOLLOWING PM CARAMANLIS' MEETING WITH LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS. AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTED UPCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON REFUGEE PROBLEM. END SUMMARY

2. ATHENS MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORTED PROMINENTLY "10 PERCENT INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGES AND SALARIES" (TO VIMA), "ELECTIONS IN PREPARATION -- THEY PROBABLY WILL BE HELD WITHIN 1974" (ELEFTHEROS COSMOS), "GOVERNMENT MEASURES FOR LABOR PROBLEMS" (AVGHI). AFTERNOON PRESS COVERED SAME NEWS WITH ADDITION OF "BATTLE TODAY AT THE UN--SOVIET PROPOSAL AND REFUGEES" (APOGEVMATINI), "BY SOVIET INITIATIVE UN WILL VINDICATE CYPRUS" (ATHENAIKI), AND "REFUGEES PROBLEM AT UN - ENVOYS OF KENNEDY GO TO NICOSIA" (VRADYNI).

3. ALL PAPERS GAVE PRIORITY TREATMENT TO RECENT EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY MATERIAL SUPPLIED TO GREECE. PRESS QUERIED RHETORICALLY IS IT TRUE MOBILIZATION
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MATERIEL FOR GREEK ARMED FORCES WAS SOLD BY FORMER REGIME

MEMEBERS? NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WIDELY FM MAVROS' MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR TASCA AUGUST 28 WHEN GOG REPORTEDLY PRESENTED ITS REPLY TO LAST MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER.

4. EDITORIALS PUBLISHED AUGUST 29 WERE NOT OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE. LAST PREMIER OF GREECE BEFORE 1967 COUP, PANAYOTIS KANELLOPOULOS WROTE LETTER-TO-EDITOR DENYING PRESS REPORTS TO EFFECT HE WAS OPPOSED TO GOG DECISION WITHDRAWING GREEK MILITARY FROM NATO. KANELLOPOULOS SHIFTING TOPICS ADDED THAT "HE IS DEPRESSED BY WAVE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM WHICH IS SWEEPING COUNTRY." I CONDEMN OFFICIAL POLICY OF U.S. TOWARD GREECE BUT HONOR PEOPLE OF THAT GREAT COUNTRY... AND REMEMBER U.S. PRESS AND SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHO SHOWED SYMPATHY... DURING 7 YEARS DICTATORSHIP." VRADYNI'S VASSOS VASSILIOU WROTE IN HIS LAST COLUMN BEFORE ASSUMING CABINET POSITION AS UNDER SECRETARY OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE THAT EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF ROSENTHAL PROMPTED DISCUSSION OF NEGATIVE AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN NATO WHICH HAS BEEN DISLOYAL TO ITS PROCLAMATIONS AND ENGENDERED RUPTURE OF SOUTHERN FLANK THROUGH TOLERANCE OF COUPS IN ATHENS AND NICOSIA

5. AKROPOLIS FRONTPAGE STORY CARRIED REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR TASCA HAD SUGGESTED SIXTH FLEET INTERVENTION "A FEW HOURS PRIOR TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS." REPORT ASSERTS THAT AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION WAS REJECTED BY STATE DEPARTMENT AND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD "REPRIMANDED HIM" AND RECOMMENDED HE CEASE MAKING SUGGESTIONS "WHILE UNDER STATE OF HIGH EMOTION." AKROPOLIS STORY WRITTEN BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ARIS ANGELOPOULOS WHO STATED THAT INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED BY GREEK-AMERICAN SOURCES WHO LATER BROUGHT IT TO ATTENTION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL.
TASCA

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